RESPONDING TO THE NEEDS OF OUR INDUSTRY, STATEWIDE.

VOLUME 12 – 2012 JUNE

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Adrienne Dallagiacoma, PR Counsel to ACEC/CO,
Editor, Production/Design, Engineering Colorado Quarterly

SCAN THIS TAG FOR THE LATEST ISSUE
OF
THE ACEC/CO QUARTERLY E-ZINE ENGINEERING COLORADO
As the 2011-2012 year winds down and the next administration lead by President Mike Elsberry tees up and gets ready to swing, I look back at some of the recent major accomplishments achieved during the past year.

Legislative Advocacy is a big responsibility of ACEC-CO which we take very seriously. Our most recent efforts last month were in Washington DC talking specifically to our Senators and Representatives about the country’s long term needs for transportation, water, and energy infrastructure funding. We also engaged the State legislators on numerous bills and testified against allowing out-of-state engineers practice without a State License. And, we participated with DORA in the PE License sunset review process for 2013, rallying other engineering organizations as well on the revisions we believe necessary.

ACEC/CO has established very close agencies and other professional liaisons over the years and continues to work with those organizations such as the State Engineer’s Office, Colorado Water Conservation Board, FHWA, RTD, EPA, GEO, SBCC, AIA, and AGC. We worked closely with the City and County of Denver on their standard contract language, with CDOT in development of their revised Master Pricing Agreement, and with the CDPHE on a revision to their Policy 96-1 Wastewater Design Criteria.

ACEC/CO provided relevant programs, seminars, webinars and other venues, shared by members and the industry as a whole regarding the ethical implications of large regional infrastructure projects, DORA regulations regarding reporting of engineering deficiencies affecting public safety, the DIA South Terminal project and RTD’s light rail expansion plans, future expansion of the National Western Stock Show complex, the impacts of the Beetle Kill on forest service roads and utilities, and the issues surrounding hydraulic fracturing.

The extremely rewarding activities this past year would include the $30,000 in Scholarships to Engineering Students that was awarded by ACEC/CO this year, and the High School Bridge Building contest that we co-sponsor year. The Engineering Excellence Awards program is always a fun and exciting event that gets better each year. Unique to this year was ACEC/CO’s involvement to help promote a project that gained national attention for some of our members, the Ziegler Reservoir expansion near Snowmass Village, with the incidental discovery of Mammoth and Mastodon fossils, which also built a strong alliance between ACEC/CO and the Denver Museum of Nature and Science.

I’m looking forward to a stronger and more efficient organization that is positioned in this evolving industry to remain relevant and eager to address the challenges of tomorrow, as it continues to provide value to its members and industry partners, and expands its reach to attract a wide spectrum of interests, disciplines, and generations.
There are many pressures on both the Council and our member firms. With this being an election year, we are facing even more challenges. Many public programs and funding have been put on hold until after the November elections. The private sector is ready to rebound but is also affected by political uncertainty for the rest of this year. Many engineering firms have been maintaining but not growing for five years and treading water for another year is not acceptable. The Council works to move our businesses forward as healthy and sustainable professional engineering firms.

ACEC-CO looks to the big picture to help sustain the industry. Through cooperative efforts with other ACEC state organizations, we learn strategies that work in other areas of the country. Other states’ best practices in working with local and state agencies may be applicable to our efforts here in Colorado. We have a strong partnership with AIA and AGC as well as other design and construction organizations. We work together to approach projects, proposed legislation and other issues. The strength of speaking with one voice with our coalitions is very powerful.

The Council has been very effective in taking on issues that are important to our industry. Our interaction and sustained relationships with clients of our members has proven an invaluable asset to our firms. We can approach delicate issues such as contract language with a professional and open dialog with our client partners. Licensure, ethics, risk management, business practices and general support of our firms are issues that will continue to drive our mission and value of our industry.

ACEC takes pride in being the voice of America’s engineering industry. Council members are engaged in a wide range of engineering that propels the economy, and enhances and safeguards America’s quality of life. Our work allows Americans to drink clean water, enjoy a healthy life, take advantage of new technologies, and travel safely and efficiently. The Council’s mission is to contribute to America’s prosperity and welfare by advancing the business interests of member firms. We are committed to maintaining this focus to the benefit of our members, our partners and the public.

Michael Ellsberry, PE is President of MKE Engineering. He is a graduate of Iowa State University with a BS in Civil Engineering. His background includes more than 30 years of professional engineering experience in several major areas, including the urban development, municipal, and transportation.

Mike has considerable transportation experience, including airport design and construction inspection, grading and drainage design, runway and apron design, airport access design, and construction including rail transit. His railroad experience has involved spur track design and studies on soils, drainage, alignments and right-of-way. He has also been a construction engineer for numerous street, storm, and sanitary sewer projects and traffic signal installations.

In his distinguished career, Mike has managed many studies and the design and redevelopment of many transportation facilities. His design projects have included more than $100 million of major arterial streets and he has played a major role in the design and construction of interstate and primary highways in Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, and Iowa. He has also worked on projects throughout the US, Canada, South America and Asia and is a Licensed Professional Engineer in the states of Colorado, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin.
Daily we see or hear about the many technical challenges facing our state and country – finding new energy sources, fixing our crumbling transportation and water infrastructure, addressing environmental impacts on whatever we do, the need to increase efficiencies in existing buildings rather than demolishing them; the list goes on and on. Compounding the situation, the cost-benefit analysis of solutions must be reasonable and cost effective and address the each jurisdiction’s laws and regulations. Importantly we must address the impacts on surrounding structures and development. This all must be accomplished while attending to the needs and input of various stakeholders. Each of these challenges requires solutions that are best for a sustainable Colorado.

The solutions aren’t always simple. Through fostering greater partnerships between the consulting engineering community, public sector and regulatory agencies, the best project can be provided to the public. The importance of engaging the consulting engineering industry is essential to optimal project delivery. As problem solvers and consensus builders, Colorado’s engineering firms bring the innovation and expertise needed to help governmental clients deliver projects to the public faster, better and with cost savings to the taxpayer. Many of today’s projects are complicated, different projects require different delivery methods and demand the specialized technical expertise that consulting engineers bring to the table.

Contracting out engineering and design services allow agencies to meet fluctuating workloads, demanding time schedules and complex technical needs. During these economic times, state and municipal agencies have been facing their own restricted budgets and unpredictable revenue streams. The use of the private sector resources provide flexibility to these agencies – allowing them to respond quickly to funding allocations and to efficiently respond to the demands of the project to meet the needs of the public, which is a responsible investment on behalf of their community. By partnering with private sector consultants, costs can be reduced because governmental personnel and payrolls are not increased; when the firm completes the project, their work is done. Keeping specialized personnel on the agencies’ payrolls is not cost efficient when there are limited projects requiring that expertise.

We will continue to be in challenging economic times, and it will be increasingly difficult to meet the needs of the public with the limited funds available. Choosing a design professional based upon qualifications provides professional services at a fair and reasonable cost. It is the most effective use of the tax payer’s investment, and it communicates a strong message that agencies are dedicated to the public good and ensuring they are employing the most responsible practices on behalf of their stakeholders.

ACEC/CO will continue its advocacy efforts to engage relationships to deliver services that are in the public’s best interest. Together, partners demonstrate they are stewards of our economic, social and environmental assets.
What happens at the State Capitol does affect our member firms. As we have heard many times, “if you aren’t at the table (participating in the legislative process), you’ll be on the menu.”

ACEC/CO takes their role to participate in the process and track legislation seriously. During the regular 2012 Colorado State Legislative session and subsequent special session, ACEC/CO Executive Director Marilen Reimer reviewed the 525+ bills that were introduced. Of these, over 85 bills were selected to be monitored, opposed or supported throughout the session because of their impacts on our ACEC/CO members’ businesses. These bills were tracked by the respective ACEC/CO committees, our Legislative Committee, Board of Directors, and our lobbyists, Bill and Lacee Artist of Artist & Associates. Some of these bills were advocated in partnership with Building Jobs for Colorado (BJ4C) – a coalition of design and construction organizations that advocate for our members; AiA/CO, ASCE/CO, and PLS/CO.

The following are a few of the bills that deserve special attention. If you have any questions concerning these or any other legislation, please contact Marilen Reimer at mar@acec-co.org or 303-832-2200.

Licensure Bills:

HB12-1210 - Recognition Out-of-state Professionals To Practice - would have allowed others outside of Colorado who hold a license in good standing to practice in Colorado without a license up to 9 months or until they get a license. ACEC/CO testified in opposition to this bill which was postponed indefinitely (killed) in the senate committee.

SB12-120 - Document Submittals by Qualified Interior Designers - would have allowed Interior Designers to submit certain interior design construction documents to local government officials was defeated in the House Local Government Committee. ACEC/CO opposed this bill.

Moratorium on CDPHE Fines – Supported HB 1119 - Success Act To Limit State Agency Fines - will place a one-year moratorium on CDPHE fines for minor environmental regulation violations provided that the employer cures the violation within a reasonable time of being notified by the CDPHE. Within the year, CDPHE, in cooperation with stakeholders, will be developing a streamlined process for preventing violations and for enforcing violations when they do occur. Governor Hickenlooper signed this legislation.

Preference Bills – HB12-1113 - Preferences In State Public Contracts and SB12-001 - Contracting Preferences For Employing Coloradans: HB12-1113 and SB12-001 would have increased the specified percentage of Colorado residents to perform the requirements of a government contract. Opposed by ACEC/CO, these bills were defeated because current statutes are adequate that address the percentage of Coloradoans who must work on state projects.

Unemployment Insurance Fund Bills:

HB12S-1002 introduced and passed in special session will help return Colorado’s Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund to solvency by allowing employers to receive credit within their individual accounts for repayment of principal-related bonding amounts.

HB12-1127 - Unemployment Ins Rate Reduction New Employers: The current unemployment insurance premium rate for new employers is 0.0170. In legislation enacted in 2011 (House Bill 11-1088), once solvency in the unemployment insurance fund is achieved, the rate for new employers would increase. This bill eliminates this rate increase and keeps the rate at 0.0170 after solvency in the unemployment insurance fund is reached. Bill was signed by the Governor.

Water Infrastructure Funding Bills:

In special session, the Water Conservation Board Construction Fund Projects Bill passed that will appropriate $6.6 million for grants to 11 programs and studies affecting water supplies and flood prevention statewide and $55 million for water infrastructure projects and water purchases. Passage of the bill also leverages additional funds from water providers and other organizations necessary for completion of the projects. Governor is expected to sign bill.

SJR – 12-003 - Water Projects Eligibility Lists: Signed by Governor gives approval of water project revolving fund eligibility lists administered by Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority.

Continued on page 7.
Transportation infrastructure funding bills – FASTER statute continues; no changes that affect current funding levels.

Public School Capitol Construction Oversight Bill – SB12-179: Bill was defeated that would continue funding the BEST schools’ program, and review of plans by agencies. This bill was introduced very late in the session. It would have prohibited an individual who has any financial interest in a potential or funded “Building Excellent Schools Today Act” (BEST) project from serving as a member of the public school capital construction assistance board (BEST board). Another part of this bill addressed plan reviews. ACEC/CO plans to work with the Colorado Department of Higher Education on developing a process to conduct plan reviews.

Pinnacol Assurance Restructuring: ACEC/CO leadership attended meetings regarding the restructuring of Pinnacol Assurance and will attend future meetings of the Business Coalition involved with this issue.

A/PE/PLS Sunset Review Process: In 2013, the licensure acts for architects, engineers and land surveyors will sunset.

For the past year, ACEC/CO has been working with respective groups such as AIA/CO, NSPE/CO, PLS/CO, SEAC, CAGE, ASCE, and Society of Fire Protection Engineers regarding our priorities to support and change the licensure acts.

We have attended several State Board of Licensure Meetings to hear board discussions on sunset review process and have met with DORA analyst Bryan Jameson about ACEC/CO priorities.

ACEC additionally hosted a meeting with over 80 people in attendance with DORA’s state board administrator Angie Kinnaird-Linn, state board member Billy Harris and DORA analyst Bryan Jameson regarding reporting requirements in licensure act.

ACEC National Government Affairs Initiatives:
Supports outsourcing, energy production credits, transportation and water infrastructure funding.

ACEC voiced opposition to USACE and NAVFAC use of single-step design-build procurements which precludes the FAR process.

SBA Size Standards were raised from $4.5 million to $14 million. ACEC had recommended $9-10 million.

ACEC is supporting legislation to exempt Private Activity Bonds for water/wastewater projects from dollar-volume limits imposed on states by Congress; the legislation could unlock $5-6 billion annually in private funding for public projects.

ACEC voiced in-sourcing concerns before the House Small Business Committee.

ACEC/CO Transportation Committee Members were encouraged to contact our congressional delegation to approve long term transportation funding legislation going through the House and Senate. Support Final Passage of Long-Term Transportation Bill With Contracting Out Provision.

Other:
ASAE – American Society of Association Executives, in partnership with ACEC opposed Office of Government Ethics regarding efforts to prevent federal employees from attending and participating in programs and conferences put on by trade associations like ASAE and ACEC/CO because it is perceived that it is not the priority of trade associations to provide professional development programs for their members.
ACEC/CO: What are your thoughts on achieving sustainable and adequate infrastructure spending?

TW: I truly believe that we can achieve sustainable and adequate infrastructure spending within the next five to ten years, but only if the general public joins the efforts of ACEC and other like organizations in demanding that adequate funding is provided to restore our infrastructure to the top in the world. It has been proven in the recent past when local referendums for infrastructure investment have been proposed, that voters will approve if the spending is targeted to projects that are necessary to maintain the quality life and support sound economic growth. ACEC has been a large supporter of these types of efforts and we must continue to do so in the future.

ACEC/CO: How do you see the recovery of private sector development?

TW: The private sector is showing signs of life in some areas of the Country I believe that we will continue to see a slow recovery over the next couple of years which will be more sustainable for our businesses versus fast growth that occurred over the previous decade.

ACEC/CO: What is the new normal to look like?

TW: The new normal is what we are currently experiencing. The demand by owners to provide services faster and more cost effective, with competition for new projects being extremely high. This will require our firms to take advantage of every new technology to perform our services. We will also need to become more involved with helping our clients secure funding/financing for their projects and be willing participants in P3 projects.

ACEC/CO: Do you have any words of wisdom for the future leaders of our industry?

TW: My advice is our future leaders of ACEC is to stay the course by being out in front of all major issues that have not only an impact on our business, but also an impact on our society as a whole. ACEC/CO: Tell us how you got to where you are today as Chairman.

TW: I became very involved many years ago at the State level serving as chairman of three different Committees before serving in each of the Officer positions. After serving as National director for three years and attending multiple National Conferences, I realized how important the National organization was to each and every firm of ACEC, whether large or small, whether involved in transportation, structural, electrical/mechanical, surveying, etc, and how each of us must be willing to volunteer for leadership roles. I placed my name in nomination for a Vice Chairman and after serving two years realized that I should take the opportunity to share my knowledge and leadership skills by placing my name in nomination for Chairman. I was lucky enough to be endorsed by the Nominating Committee and elected by the Board of Directors to become the 2012-2013 Chairman.

ACEC/CO: What are the challenges for our industry in the near term and in the future? How can we, as an industry, respond to these challenges?

TW: I believe that one of our major challenges for both industry and ACEC in the near term and future is the insourcing of design services by public agencies. We are constantly seeing incidents where agencies whether Local, State or Federal are trying to do more and more design services in house versus allowing the private sector to provide these services. We must continue our efforts to promote the use of the private sector in performing design services as it has been proven over and over again that the private sector can provide these services at a less overall cost as compared to the private sector.
June 20, 2012, 1 - 5 p.m.
4 Professional Development Hours

Technology and Being in the “Cloud”

This seminar is a must for firm CEO, COO, controllers and IT management.

A great investment at just $159 per registration for members and $199 for non-members.

Content of this program is applicable to our industry and is appropriate for firms of any size. Specifically targeted to CEO, COO, controllers and IT management, this seminar provides need to know insights into the world of technology in the “cloud.” Topics include liability, reality, security, reliability, technology, financial considerations, usage, cost-effectiveness, and functionality. The program covers the practical basics about the cloud from business and technology perspectives including utilizing the cloud for potential cost savings and increased productivity are also examined.

Click here http://acec-co.org/members/acec/registration/regstart.asp?action=start to register or call ACEC/CO at (303) 821.2200.

ACEC/CO
800 Grant Street, Board Room
Denver, CO 80203

Lunch provided with registrations.
Aurora’s Merrick & Company recently named Peter Binney as the vice president of infrastructure. Binney will focus on water and wastewater projects to drive the firm’s growth in sustainable infrastructure within his new position.

Merrick & Company has named both, Gary Outlaw, GISP and Peter Dixon, CEng, MIChemE as vice presidents. Gary Outlaw and Peter Dixon will be essential in leading the firm’s corporate business development professional and market sector leaders to achieve Merrick & Company’s growth visions.

Robert Berglund has been promoted to senior vice president after having over six years of experience with working for Merrick & Company. Berglund will focus on the international growth strategies for the firm primarily in energy, national security, life sciences, and sustainable infrastructure, which are the firm’s four targeted markets.

Merrick & Company has promoted Christopher Sherry, PE, to senior vice president. Sherry will focus on leading the firm’s business and corporate development group, while working with the marketing, merger, and acquisition programs.

Congratulations to Merrick & Company for receiving the Pike’s Peak Post 2011 Seymour S. Greenfield Sustaining Member Medium Company award and their current consideration at the National Level for this award.

Joe Hastey was appointed Denver senior vice president of corporate development for STV Inc.

With over twenty-five years of engineering experience and project leads, Ruben Cruz, Ph. D., PE, project manager for Merrick & Company was awarded the SAME Rocky Mountain Region Vice President’s Medal for his commitment to the Pikes Peak Post.

Congratulations to Sergio Aguayo, GISP, Senior Photogrammetrist at Merrick & Company for winning first place in the International LiDAR Mapping Forum (ILMF) “LiDAR as Art” contest.

David McCormick has been hired on at Merrick & Company in the Aurora office, as a business development manager in their division in National Security Facilities. McCormick will be in charge of expanding the military and government facilities business globally and throughout the U.S.

Daniel Harrington engineer for Aurora’s Merrick & Company was nominated by The American Council of Engineering Companies in Colorado for the ACEC’s national Young Professional of the Year award. In addition, Merrick & Company has also nominated Harrington for the ACEC Colorado New Faces of Engineering award.

Bohannan Huston has brought Mark West, P.E., LEED AP, on as a senior project engineer and project manager; in addition to naming John Done as survey manager. Engineers Tandy Free and David Johnson have transferred from Albuquerque to the Denver office.

Cator, Ruma & Associates of Lakewood has opened a new office in Cheyenne. This consulting mechanical/electrical engineering firm has been involved in the Wyoming market for approximately fifty years.

Engineers Sean Convery and Kevin Miller have been promoted to principals of Cator, Ruma & Associates.

Congratulations to LONCO on their 50th anniversary this year.

Merrick & Company’s Ralph Christie has been named national vice chair of ACEC under a two year term as well as member of the executive committee.

IBI Group has named Bill Byrne senior project manager.

J. Brian Zick has joined Farnsworth Group Inc. as municipal manager for their western region.

Dewey Brigham, a senior construction manager with CH2M HILL, received the January 2012 Minoru Yasui Community Volunteer Award for his 25 years of service with the Colorado Association of Black Professional Engineers and Scientists. This award is presented monthly for individuals who make unique contributions within the community.

Lamp, Rynearson & Associates, Inc. a civil engineering and surveying firm has hired on John Tuft as a senior project manager.

Brian Bowyer was named electrical project manager for Eaton Energy Solutions Inc.

Rebecca Reel, an engineer with The RMH Group in Lakewood CO., has recently been elected to the U.S. Green Building Council’s Colorado Chapter board of directors.

Christopher J. Birkmeyer was hired on as senior project manager in JVA Inc.’s Boulder office. While Jeannette Torrents has been appointed associate of JVA Inc.
Scott Keim, P.E. has joined CTL|Thompson as division manager and will be based in Colorado Springs with oversight of the southern Colorado region including Pueblo and the Arkansas Valley.

Steven Watt and Kenneth H. Hancock were elected to three-year terms on the Wilson & Co. Inc. board of directors. The current board of directors for March 2012 consist of the president and chief executive officer Steven Watt, senior vice president Daniel S. Aguirre, senior vice president and chairman of the board James A. Brady, senior vice president and secretary/treasurer Ryan R. Branfort, senior vice president Kenneth H. Hancock, and senior vice president and chief financial officer James E. Ross.

Michael King has been with Wilson & Co Inc. since 2002 as their transportation west service unit manager, and has recently been named their associate vice president.

Wilson & Co. Inc. has named Marc T. Devos as their senior transportation engineer. Devos will focus on developing the organization's transportation and rail practice.

On May 16, 2012, after twelve years in the position of CEO and chairman for ARCADIS, Harrie Noy has decided to retire. Taking over the CEO and chairman position will be Neil McArthur. Stephanie Hottenhuis the firm's European director has also been named to the executive board. Zachary A. Smith has been appointed chief strategy and sales officer for ARCADIS U.S., Highlands Ranch, CO. Curt Cramer will take over Smith's previous position as president of the firm's environment division.

Roger Baker, P.G., Colorado Springs office manager, principal, and senior geologist of Kumar and Associates Inc., will be retiring after nineteen years with the firm and devoting forty-years to geological and geotechnical engineering.

With over 18 years experience in fields involving geotechnical engineering, subsurface exploration, project management, construction inspection, and materials testing Duane Craft, P.E., has been selected as office manager of Kumar & Associates, Inc. in the Colorado Springs office.

Leonard Rice Engineers, Inc. has hired on Matthew J. Brown, P.E. as project manager and recognized Mary L. Presecan, P.E. as a principle shareholder.

Roy Martinez has been named director of the water agency market sector at HDR Inc.

Charles Weiss, LEED AP, is a registered professional engineer in several states, a certified floodplain manager, and with over twenty-three years of experience has just been hired on at Nolte Associates Inc. in their Colorado office.

MKK Consulting Engineers has hired several new employees for their Greenwood Village office. Matthew Campbell has been appointed as senior business development manager, Chris Fullerton has been named energy services manager, Kate Schmitz is now project administrator, and Brett Nelson will be taking on the position of commissioning agent.

Mary Keith Floyd has been named assistant vice president and transportation manager for Michael Baker Jr. Inc.

Tom Skinner of JVA Inc. has been nominated to the board of directors of the Structural Engineering Association of Colorado (SEAC).

Beaudin Ganze Consulting Engineers Inc. has named University of New Mexico graduate, Morgan Royce as office manager for their Albuquerque office.

CH2M HILL has appointed Russell Ford, Paul Swaim, Lee Odell, Joe Elarde, and Jim Lozier to direct the firm's water infrastructure service team.

With over thirty years of aviation and infrastructure project management, design, and architectural planning experience, Lucinda Woodard has rejoined Parsons Corporation for the vice president and senior manager position in the aviation department.

Wilson & Co. Inc. has selected Scott T. Asher who has over fifteen years of experience in planning and designing roadways as its Colorado Springs transportation operations manager.

Wesley Ploof has been promoted to commissioning section leader at Beaudin Ganze Consulting Engineers Inc.
The American Council of Engineering Companies of Colorado announced recipients of its 2012 awards, which honor members who continually demonstrate leadership and dedication to furthering the consulting engineering industry. These individuals demonstrate their devotion to accelerating industry advancements and cultivating the next generation of engineers whose work will continue to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of the public.

Robert W. Felsburg, P.E., president, Felsburg, Holt & Uleveig, received the Orley O. Phillips Award, the highest honor presented to an engineer each year. This award honors an ACEC/CO member who has made significant contributions to the engineering profession, the Council and its programs. Felsburg is a past president of the Council and has served on numerous committees. He has also served as National Director of ACEC and is currently a member of the ACEC National Membership Committee.

Felsburg is a guest lecturer at Colorado State University and Penn State, where he serves on the Industrial and Professional Advisory Council of the School of Engineering.

Paul Bartlett, dean emeritus of the College of Engineering and applied Science, University of Colorado at Denver, was the recipient of the General Palmer Award, which recognizes an engineer in the industry who contributed to the State of Colorado, has established recognition within the community and has contributed to the advancement of the engineering community.

Outgoing President Eric Young also recognized Committee Chairs of the Year, Gray Brierley, P.E., Expert Witness and Ethics Committee; Scott Sammons, P.E., Transportation Committee; and Allan Brown, P.E., Transportation Sub-Committee.

Michael Griffeth, P.E., Griffeth Engineering, received the George Washington Award, which honors an engineer for outstanding service to the community, the progress of Colorado, and the advancement of the public image of consulting engineering, which has had an impact on public policy and general societal issues. Griffeth served more than six years with the Colorado Air National Guard as a civil engineering officer with the 140th Wing at Buckley AFB in Aurora. After returning from his tour to Iraq and leaving the military, he worked with his State Rep. Sue Schafer to spearhead legislation to protect the professional licenses of those deployed because they were not in a position to renew their licenses and meet continuing education requirements.

Narender Kumar, P.E., Kumar Associates, Inc., received the President’s Award, which recognizes outstanding efforts of an individual on behalf of the Council. Kumar was honored for his years of work on numerous issues impacting engineers, especially with the City and County of Denver, which included contract language, city ordinances for MWBEs and SBES and encouraging the City to provide more opportunities for small businesses to win work.

The Council’s Outstanding Educator of the Year was presented to Jesa Griffeth, P.E. Griffeth left a successful career as a licensed water resource engineer to become a sixth grade math teacher at Lake International School in Denver.